

# The Library Assistant :

*The Official Journal of the Library Assistants' Association.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENT.

A Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 12th December**, at 7.30 p.m., at the **National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster**. The proceedings will be quite informal, and a discussion on current library affairs will be promoted. It is intended that these meetings shall provide opportunities for discussing some of the difficulties and problems that beset us in these days; it is hoped, too, that enthusiasm may be stirred, and that a determination to push on library development in every possible way may result. These are times for the unfolding of ideas, for inspiration to activity, and at present only the L.A.A. is providing opportunities for the development of intellectual energy in librarianship. A further selection of Album of Honour material will be exhibited at the meeting.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President of the L.A.A. takes this opportunity of wishing every member of the Association a Bright and Happy Christmas, and a New Year bringing early in its train a joyous proclamation of peace.

To those colleagues so nobly serving their King and Country we can only say: you are ever in our thoughts, and we hopefully trust that the time is not far distant when we may give you a hearty welcome home.

## EDITORIAL.

**The Monthly Meetings.**—The attendance at and the interest shown in our last monthly meeting were very encouraging, and removed any doubt that may have existed as to the wisdom of the Council in arranging a winter session. No elaborate arrangements were made in connection with the meeting; the proceedings were quite informal, but the discussions were, nevertheless, enthusiastic and profitable. May we urge all our readers to support the Council in its determination to provide facilities for professional meetings and friendly intercourse in these days. All library workers, whether members of the Association or not, are cordially invited to attend the gatherings and to bring forward for discussion matters of professional interest. We avail ourselves of this opportunity of thanking Miss Austin and the Committee of the National Library for the Blind for making the meetings possible, by allowing us to meet from time to time in such congenial circumstances.

**The Close of the Volume.**—Contrary to our usual custom, the index to the volume just concluded will be distributed with the January issue.

While the work of producing the *Assistant* during the year has been a distinct pleasure, at the same time it has not been altogether an easy task. We have been faced with difficulties in regard to paper both for the letter-press and the cover, but our readers will be interested to know that we have been able to purchase sufficient to ensure the regular production of the journal during 1918. The absence of formal meetings has created a dearth of contributions, but, nevertheless, we have been able to publish some interesting, and, we hope, useful contributions to existing professional literature. Among items of particular interest we recall the stimulating address by Dr. Barrett to our West of Scotland Branch, the late Eric A. Peppiette's paper on "Some Reflections on Modern Librarianship," the helpful and suggestive paper by one of our younger members on "The Training of the Library Assistant," the Honorary Secretary's "First Steps in Library Cataloguing," now reprinted in the *L.A.A. Series*, the account of the Summer School at Aberystwyth, and an article on a new feature of library work, "Libraries and Welfare Work." During the year it has also been our sad duty to record that twenty library workers have either given their lives for their country or are reported "missing," and that sixteen have received wounds. Twenty-eight names of men promoted or decorated have also been recorded.

The Editor desires to acknowledge his indebtedness to Mrs. Bolton (the late Assistant Editor) and to Miss G. Rees, who now

occupies the office, for their valuable assistance in connection with the production and distribution of the Journal, and also to the printer for the punctual way in which he has issued it at a time when labour is scarce.

**Miss Gerard's Article.**—May we draw the special attention of our readers to the short article by Miss Gerard which appears in the present issue. It deals with a problem that is engaging the attention of most librarians, and we think it would be interesting to learn what is being done in some libraries. We shall be glad to receive any views on the subject that readers may have, as well as statements of what has actually been done.

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### L.A. CORRESPONDENCE CLASSES.

In Sections 1—Literature, and 3—Classification, two or three more students are required before these classes can be commenced. It seems a pity that those who have sent in their names should be disappointed through the lack of a little more enthusiasm on the part of others, particularly when the numbers required are so small. We urge then that some of our members may be encouraged to take up the classes in these subjects: they will find the work interesting and most helpful to them in their daily duties. The conductor of the Literature Class will be Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, and our own Editor—Mr. H. A. Sharp—will be responsible for the Classification Class: these names are a sufficient guarantee that the tuition will be of a high standard, and our readers cannot do better than take the advice to send in their names *at once*. W.B.T.

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### THE PROBLEM OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANTS AND THEIR TRAINING.

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By ETHEL GERARD; *Worthing Public Library; Vice-President of the Library Assistants' Association.*

When the present hostilities were commenced—more than three years ago—many people confidently believed that the war would soon be over. Consequently a number of the girls who then came forward to fill gaps caused through the enlistment of the men, did so with the feeling that their work would only be of a temporary nature, and therefore, that it was unnecessary to

qualify themselves professionally. They looked upon themselves and were looked upon by their employers as "stop-gaps" only.

Nearly three years and a half have gone by, and many of these girls still hold the posts they volunteered for. If their work at the commencement might have been regarded as being of a negligible quantity, in many cases now, it cannot be passed lightly over, but must rank alongside that of the trained worker.

Of late much has been heard of the virtues, or failings as the case may be, of these girls. Some eulogistic supporters claim that their labour alone has saved our country, while, on the other hand, their detractors have told us with equal emphasis that they are "no good in banks," "not strong enough for the land," that the W.A.A.C. is a failure, and so on. The truth of the whole matter is that neither of these verdicts can be taken as final. Women's labour in our country is still in an initial stage, it has not been organised so successfully as it might have been, but, on the other hand, enormous strides are being made in the right direction.

In the first place it is necessary to realise that all workers have to be sifted in the great sieve of labour before they find their proper level and that, unfortunately, it is usually only the minority, who, after the sifting is over, remain to claim their places as permanent trained workers.

These remarks may sound rather apart from the title of my paper, but the problems and difficulties attendant upon any form of women's work are to be met with, if in a more restricted sense, in our own profession.

The last three years has been a most important period in the history of girl assistants in British libraries. Many libraries that hitherto had closed their doors to girls have been forced to open them, and now, after the testing-time, we are beginning to hear the expression of opinion upon the experiment. The chief librarians themselves vary in their verdicts—some have been unnecessarily critical, and have joyously told us of the blunders and mistakes the girls have made—quite forgetting those made in days gone by by themselves, or by former staffs. Other librarians hold quite opposite opinions. I know one, who, after having dealt with a male staff for over twenty years, says, "the girls are wonderful." Never again will he willingly go back to his struggles with boys, and his girls are not likely to be regarded as "temporary" after the war is over. I believe that on the whole the consensus of opinion of chiefs throughout the country is—that if the right type of girl is appointed—the girl assistant, temporary or otherwise, is a success. But in getting the right type of girl we come to the chief obstacle. The right type of girl, difficult at any time to

get, is more difficult than ever to get to-day. With the counter attractions of nursing and land-work, to say nothing of certain forms of highly paid munition work, we stand but a very poor chance to-day of attracting to our profession the right type of educated girl.

Most libraries are always hampered by want of funds and are doubly so now, when in so many cases a considerable proportion of the sum estimated for salaries has to be paid to the men upon service, consequently only a small salary can be given to the temporary assistant.

With the cost of living at the present high rate, many educated women who would at any other time turn to our work, are forced to seek better paid, if less congenial, employment elsewhere. The fact remains then that the only labour upon which we can draw to-day is that of the girl just leaving school.

If we come to look carefully we shall find that, after all, this is not bad material to work upon. Of course, there are "girls and girls," but bearing this axiom in mind there should be a possibility of getting more satisfactory results from the employment of this form of labour than we are seeing in some places to-day. The chief point to be remembered in the first place is not to appoint girls obviously unsuited to the work; but, even in war time, to stand out for the best that can be had. I know there is a section of the public who seems to have a rooted objection to being attended to, either by girls or lads, and who rather uncomplimentarily remark upon the pleasure of seeing an "old face" when a senior puts in an appearance. But such whims as these must be sacrificed to-day, providing there is some qualified head, either of the library or department who can keep things going more or less in good working order. And here we come to the crux of the matter. Chief librarians and remaining seniors are in many cases too busy to give more than a very cursory training to their temporary staff.

The usual pre-war activities of the library have to be kept going, added to in some instances by additional ones in the form of War-Savings, Recruiting and Food-Control work. All these activities have to be performed by a depleted staff of seniors, and, in some cases, without any remaining senior members at all. Consequently, the work has to be got through somehow or other as best it can. This state of things, to put it mildly, is very harassing for any chief, and temporary assistants who are inclined to complain regarding their lack of opportunity in the matter of training, should bear this in mind. On the other hand, however, we are well on into the fourth year of war—and for aught some of us can see there may be four more still ahead of us—surely

then by this time we ought to have rallied our forces, divided the material at our command, and, in some cases at any rate, have instituted a method for the training of temporary assistants. As I have already remarked, some girls who came into our libraries three years ago as "stop-gaps" are still in them, and during that time what have they learned? To tidy shelves, to issue books, and generally to do the work of junior assistants. Consider now what three years experience in any profession or trade should even in war time mean. I believe it is impossible to name any in which training is so bad, or the results of it so poor, as that of librarianship—and having made this bold statement I am quite prepared for the trouble that may follow. I know the general feeling is to leave things until after the war—but why oh! why wait until *after* the war? Why not get on with it now? Train as far as possible now with the idea of making further training after the war a thing of more system and dignity.

The possibility of this is instanced by the splendid success of the recent Summer School, while only last week I heard of a prominent librarian who has recognised the possibilities of the time, and is instituting a very rigorous training for his temporary assistants. I am not sure what his methods are, but it would be most interesting to hear what lines he is working upon, and also those of any other libraries where the "Temporary" problem is being dealt with.

Will some of our colleagues tell us what they are doing in the larger libraries?

I cannot help thinking that our methods of dealing with temporary assistants savour somewhat of our national policy of drifting along somehow or other, and it is in instances like this, that our enemies have so often had "the pull" of us, through seizing the opportunity of converting the raw material into the finished article.

In the raw material of our temporary assistants, there should be, if properly handled, enormous possibilities for the fashioning of first-class librarians of the future. These girls and lads can never drift across our work like a shadow, they will make some impression, either for good or bad, and it will be to our lasting shame if the impression is the latter.

They must be trained. The Examinations of the Library Association are not enough for this purpose—and at the present juncture the personal element is likely to hold more weight. They need, through personal example, to be shown the possibilities of their work. They need encouragement in, and facilities offered them for study. Their business instincts should be

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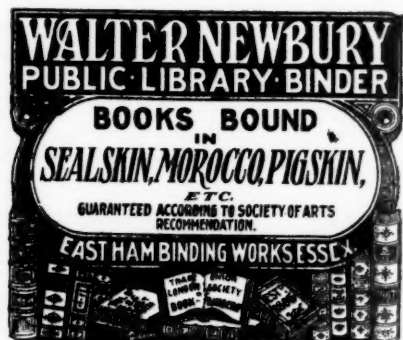
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## Library Association Examinations.

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The Special Period in English Literature for 1918 is 1840-1870.

## East Ham Bookbinding Works,



Plashet Lane and Elizabeth Road, East Ham, Essex.

## ALBUM OF HONOUR.

The Association is anxious to secure

### PHOTOGRAPHS

(Preferably carbon or platinotype prints)

Of all Library Workers on Active Service. Also

### NEWSPAPER AND OTHER CUTTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS OF MEMORIALS, ETC.

If possible, two copies of photographs and other material should be sent, as it is hoped to place a duplicate of the Album in the British Museum.

Please send all material to:

MR. H. A. SHARP,

Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon.



# **LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION**

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## **AN INFORMAL MEETING**

WILL BE HELD ON

**WEDNESDAY, 12th DECEMBER,**

AT **7.30** P.M., AT THE

**National Library for the Blind**

**18, TUFTON STREET, WESTMINSTER**

(Close to St. James's Park Station).

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THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION ON

**CURRENT LIBRARY AFFAIRS**

AND A

**Further Selection of Portraits of Library  
Workers on Active Service will be  
exhibited.**

All Librarians and Assistants are cordially invited to attend.

" I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men do of course seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves by way of amends to be a help and an ornament thereunto."—FRANCIS BACON, BARON VERULAM.

# **The Value of Individual Effort.**

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The Council of the L.A.A. is anxious that every Member and Associate should realize the value of his or her loyalty and support to Librarianship as well as to the Association. In these difficult days the L.A.A., which represents the largest body of library workers in the British Isles, needs the faithful adherence of every Member, and also his or her ACTIVE CO-OPERATION.

All Members of whatever grade should consider seriously their relationship to the Association, reflecting as to whether they are doing anything individually to further its interests. Each can do SOMETHING; not one is so isolated as to be unable to ATTEMPT assistance in some direction. The present times afford especial opportunities for the co-operation of WOMEN ASSISTANTS.

Information will be gladly supplied by the *Hon. Secretary*,  
BROMLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, BRUNSWICK ROAD,  
POPLAR, LONDON, E.14.

fostered, and above all, don't treat them casually as "stop-gaps," or they will deteriorate into such.

We are hearing a lot about capturing the trade of the world after the war, and as a means to this end business libraries are springing up all over the country. How can we hope to capture anything but ridicule for our libraries and our system, if, after more than three years of war, our temporary assistants are as ignorant of our profession as when they entered it?

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### L.A.A. ROLL OF HONOUR (continued).

**Hackney:** \*PARKER, W. H., Sub-Librarian, has been appointed an Equipment Officer in the Royal Flying Corps, and will take up his duties towards the end of December.

Mr. Parker is over military age, and his enlistment does him honour.—*Ed.*

**Hyde:** \*WALTER CHORLTON (3rd Division Light Infantry).

Mr. Chorlton has been engaged on munitions since June, 1915.

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### DECORATION.

\***W. J. Burch.**—We are proud to record the fact that Second-Lieutenant Burch, of the Fulham Public Libraries, has been awarded the Military Cross. On behalf of the Association we offer him our hearty congratulations.

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### PROMOTION.

\***W. C. Hurford.**—We also offer our congratulations to Pte. W. C. Hurford, of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Libraries, upon being gazetted Second-Lieutenant, 3rd Durham Light Infantry.

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### WOUNDED.

\***Norman McColvin.**—We are sorry to record that Private Norman McColvin (Border Regiment) of the Croydon Public Libraries, has been wounded in the hip. He is now lying in a military hospital in Yorkshire, and we are pleased to learn that he is progressing satisfactorily.

\***Horace Goulden.**—We are glad to hear that Mr. Goulden (sub-Librarian of Huddersfield), who was wounded in the neck last May has recovered. He is now a corporal in the 4th (Reserve) Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and is engaged in instructing recruits.

\* Member, L.A.A.

## KILLED IN ACTION.

**\*E. H. Perrett.**—We regret to record the death in action of Second-Lieutenant E. H. Perrett, of the Bournemouth Public Libraries, on 4th October. Mr. Perrett joined the Bournemouth Libraries staff in 1909, and enlisted in the R.A.M.C. in September, 1914. At the end of 1916 he was recommended for a commission, and was eventually attached to the Hampshire Regiment. He saw considerable service abroad during 1915 and 1916, and in a letter from his commanding officer Perrett is spoken of in tones of high esteem as an officer who "did his duty nobly, and was very popular amongst both officers and men."

**\*F. T. Izard.**—It is our sad duty to record that the Birmingham Public Libraries have suffered another loss by the death of Mr. F. T. Izard, who was killed in action on 4th October. Mr. Izard was an assistant at the Handsworth Branch Library, with which department he was connected when Handsworth was an independent local authority. He joined one of the Birmingham City Battalions immediately after the outbreak of war, and had been in France for nearly two years at the time of his death.

## MISSING.

**\*Sergeant James D. Young.**—It is with extreme regret that we hear the relatives of Sergeant Young have given up hope of hearing further news of him. On the 23rd of April he was reported "missing," and the last information available concerning him is that he was seen in a trench, wounded, but fighting bravely and stubbornly. Such an end to one of Young's temperament, seems almost incredible, for if ever there was a book-man and a philosopher, surely it was he; yet, such are the amazing changes wrought by War, that he (probably) died "in a trench, wounded, but fighting bravely and stubbornly." Those who knew him will appreciate those few last words, for he was ever a fighter when the matter in hand was worth it, while he lacked nothing in strength of character.

"Jimmy" Young—he was always "Jimmy" to those who worked with him—was born 33 years ago, and joined the staff of the Fulham Libraries in 1900. When the Greenwich Libraries were being organized in 1906 he was appointed Sub-Librarian, and for the last few years was responsible for the Branch Library in London Street. For twelve or more years he took an active interest in the L.A.A., and was elected to the Council in 1906, since when he served the Association continuously. After being rejected several times on account of slightly defective eyesight, he was eventually accepted for the Rifle Brigade in October, 1915. Within a few days of the commencement of his training, he, with several others, was selected for the N.C.O.'s training squad, and eventually was promoted to the rank of sergeant. For some time there did not seem any prospect of his being sent overseas, and for a long while he was engaged in training men in musketry. At length, however, after transference to the King's Royal Rifles, he was sent out, and fate very quickly overtook him. On New Year's Day, 1916, he was married to Miss Ethel Giles, formerly of the Islington Libraries, and in June this year a daughter was born.

Our late colleague held original and very definite views regarding librarianship and the functions of Public Libraries, some of which were not acceptable to the more ambitious of us even though our own might be less

\*Member, L.A.A.

reasonably demonstrable. Young was never disposed to allow enthusiasm to run away with him, and not infrequently brought debate up short by the introduction of a hard practical fact which had lightly been passed by in our ardent pursuit of an idea. Yet he was an enthusiastic librarian, and possessed several L.A. certificates, one with honours and two with merit; he was also a Fellow of the Library Association, having been first elected to that Association in 1907. From time to time he produced papers on professional subjects which were usually distinguished for their originality of outlook. Possessing a keen sense of humour, he was invaluable in putting life into a discussion, for he owned the gift of speech in no mean measure, and when dealing with a topic to which he had given attention, spoke with great fluency and ability. He had travelled on the continent to a considerable extent, but always reserved the Easter vacation for rambles in the English countryside, which he once declared held an increasing charm for him. His continental excursions were usually out of the beaten track, and were made enjoyable by his facility with the French and German languages.

For some years, as young men frequently do, he took a cynical pleasure in adopting the pose of a confirmed misogynist, but at one afternoon meeting of the L.A.A. he was introduced to Miss Ethel Giles, with the result that he quickly changed his attitude, and a charming romance followed, which gave delight to the friends of both. The L.A.A. has been responsible for more than one marriage, but none gave greater promise of happiness than this, and the tragic termination of it all is a real grief to those who watched its development with so much hope.

And so another valued labourer in the field of librarianship has passed out into the light: a staunch friend, a man of character, the possessor of a fine intellect, a practised thinker, one to whom the idea of war must have been abhorrent; yet the call of duty and sacrifice came, and he went unhesitatingly. For Mrs. Young and her little one the deepest sympathy will be felt, and the kindest thought of every member will go out to them in their bereavement.

W.B.T.

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#### CORRESPONDENCE.

November 16th, 1917.

*To the Editor of "The Library Assistant."*

SIR,—I shall be glad if you will allow me, through the medium of the *Assistant*, to protest against the method by which the Correspondence Classes of the Library Association are being conducted this year.

Owing to the fact that these classes have not commenced at their scheduled time, valuable time is being lost to students in the provinces, to whom these classes are almost the only means of professional tuition. In my own case I forwarded my application with my tuition fee before September 30th.

Hearing nothing further of the class and receiving no papers, on November 1st I wrote to the Secretary asking if my name had been omitted. The answer I received was that my name had not been omitted, but that he was waiting for more students before starting the class. I have heard nothing further, to-day is November 16th; therefore just on seven weeks have been wasted to students.

At Caxton Hall, in October, Dr. Baker urged the importance of professional training. If there is such a need felt for the training of our library assistants, why should not improvements be made now in the old system,

until such a time comes for the establishment of the new system advocated by Dr. Baker. I submit that professional training cannot be urged while the methods by which the Examinations are conducted are open to criticism. I should therefore like to make the following suggestions :—

1. That the correspondence classes be held regularly even if there be only *one* student in each section—among a few enthusiasts a future great librarian may possibly be hidden.
2. That the Examinations be held twice a year, instead of once—in May and December.
3. That students failing to satisfy the Examiners in May be allowed to sit again in December at half fees.
4. That through the medium of *The Library Assistant* professional articles may appear, with aids to personal study, suggested readings and, if possible, trial questions.

From remarks frequently made by assistants, it is becoming obvious that unless some effort is made to put our training upon a more professional basis, many of our colleagues will leave our work for other spheres of labour where greater encouragement is to be found.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

MARGARET W. TUPMAN.

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## PROCEEDINGS.

The First Meeting of the Twenty-Third Session was held on Wednesday, 14th November, at the National Library for the Blind, Westminster, by kind permission of Miss Austin, the President, Mr. J. F. Hogg being in the chair.

Previous to the meeting there was an exhibition of photographs of library workers on active service, being a selection of the material collected for the Association's Album of Honour.

The meeting, which was well attended, was of an informal character, and the first matter discussed was the article in the October "Athenaeum," by G. B. Curtis Collier entitled "The Public Library: towards an ideal." In the course of the article the library service was indicted as inefficient, run on conservative and old fashioned lines, and the training of library assistants was adversely criticised. It was admitted in the course of the discussion that the article contained an element of truth, but that the lethargy, inefficiency, and indifference complained of no longer existed to anything like the degree that the writer supposed.

The meeting enjoyed the presence of Mr. J. Merrishaw, acting honorary secretary of the North Western Branch, who introduced an interesting discussion on the resolution passed at the last annual meeting of the Branch, and mentioned on page 117 of our last issue, and which is to be further considered by the Council of the Association.

## OUR LIBRARY.

EMERY, J. W. *The Library, the School and the Child.*  
9 + 216 pp. *Il.* 8 in.  $\times$  5  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. 1917. Macmillan Co.  
of Canada. Cl. Bds.

The receipt of the book before us is most timely in view of the prominence that was given to the question of work for children at the recent Library Association Conference. The book is rendered none the less useful or interesting by reason of the fact that the author is not a librarian, but a Doctor of Pedagogy, and master of the Normal School, Stratford, Ontario. Dr. Emery describes the work in his preface as "an attempt . . . to set forth the various ways in which children are being supplied with books through the instrumentality of libraries . . . . The first five chapters deal with the work of the public library for children, first, as public school pupils, and, secondly, as children. The remainder of the book treats of the efforts of the State to provide books for the young through school libraries."

In view of the state of perfection to which this kind of work has attained in the United States, it is not surprising to find that great prominence is given to American libraries and methods. Nevertheless, considerable space is also given to an account of what has been done in Ontario and other parts of Canada, and there is a chapter on British and other European libraries, summarising what has been done through the medium of the School Libraries.

The concluding chapter, besides containing some useful suggestions, has a list of books which the author recommends as the foundation stock of a rural school library, costing about £10. An eight page list of works consulted is also appended. We recommend a perusal of the volume to all those who are interested in the question of library work for children. H.S.

FINSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY. *Classified Guide to Modern Business Books*; compiled by H. G. T. Cannons, Borough Librarian. 48 pp. 7  $\frac{3}{4}$   $\times$  5  $\frac{1}{2}$  in.

This is an excellent production, and should prove of the utmost service to the business men of Finsbury. A collection of 500 modern books is catalogued under 46 heads with helpful annotations appended to almost every entry. The edition, besides the date of publication, is given, and the publisher, together with the published price of each book, is also included. Such enterprise as this displays cannot be too highly commended, for it is precisely in this way that public libraries can best prove their worth, as business organisation and methods in this country are by no means understood so generally as they should be, and any effort calculated to stimulate interest in that direction is in the nature of real national service; moreover, by impressing upon business men the potential usefulness of a public library is to have achieved a great thing. There is no mention of any charge being made for the publication, and as there are seven full pages of advertising matter, we assume that it is distributed to the business people in the Borough of Finsbury gratis: a further evidence of the efficiency with which this Library is administered, thus maintaining the tradition of progressive service which has always characterised its management. T.B.W.

## MARRIAGE.

**FUNNELL—\*STEWART.**—In August, Sergeant-Instructor J. D. Stewart, of the Islington Public Libraries, and formerly a Councillor of the L.A.A., was married to Miss Hilda Funnell, late of the London School of Economics. On behalf of the Association, we offer to the couple our congratulations and best wishes for the future. So far as our information goes, Mr. Stewart is still engaged in France as a machine gun instructor.

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## APPOINTMENT.

**\*JONATHAN MERRISHAW**, of the Darwen Public Library, has been appointed assistant librarian, Goldsmiths' Library, London University, in succession to the late Mr. J. L. Davison, killed in action.

\* Member, L.A.A.

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"You want to have taste and expression in the choice of your books. Never cut yourself adrift from the library. Read your newspaper in the train or in any other time not otherwise occupied, but I think that everybody, if he can, should dedicate a small portion at least of every day to continued reading of some good sound book which will elevate his taste and give him an interest, a sense of literature, and a sense of feeling which will enable him to judge of the merits and the quality and power of a good book, and to distinguish between the good and the bad in literature."—*Augustine Birrell at the reopening of the Gladstone Library.*

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## NEW MEMBERS.

**Member:** Miss Marjorie Crooks (Croydon).

**Associate:** Miss K. M. Snow (Croydon).

**North Western Branch: Members:** Miss E. A. Bamber (Accrington); Mr. T. L. Yates (Bolton). **Associates:** Misses F. C. Blears, C. Brindle, J. Nowell, J. S. Price, E. Shuttleworth, E. Simpson, and E. Thompson (all of Bolton).

**South Coast Branch: Associates:** Misses D. M. Lye, F. L. and P. E. Talmey, and M. A. Wheatley (all of Hove).

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## OBITUARY.

**Richard Phillips.**—We regret to learn that Mr. Richard Phillips died on 29th October. He had been a member of the Birmingham Libraries staff for thirty-five years, and was, for a number of years, in charge of the Central Lending Library.